Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces prior versions:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A link press characterized by comprising a motor, a link mechanism that converts rotating operation transmitted by the motor via a drive transmitting system, into a linear operation, and a ram installed below said link mechanism to elevate and lower for press working on the basis of said linear operation, said link mechanism comprising a crank member having a crank shaft and an eccentric shaft portion, a pivoting link having a first to third connecting portions located at vertices of a triangle and which are used for rotatable connections, the first connecting portion being connected to the eccentric shaft portion of said crank member, a connecting rod having opposite ends connected to the second connecting portion and an upper end of said ram, respectively, and a restraining link having a proximal end rotationally movably connected to a frame and a leading end connected to the third connecting portion of said pivoting link to regulate pivoting of said pivoting link, a pivoting center of said restraining link and the third connecting portion being arranged at ~~respective~~ opposite sides of said crank shaft.

Claim 10 (original): A link process according to Claim 9, characterized in that said restraining link is arranged so that when the eccentric shaft portion of said crank member is located at a top dead center, part of said eccentric shaft portion is located above a straight line joining the pivoting center of said restraining link with the third connecting portion.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A link press characterized by comprising a motor, a link mechanism that converts rotating operation transmitted by the motor via a drive transmitting system, into a linear operation, and a ram installed below said link mechanism to elevate and lower for press working on the basis of said linear operation, said link mechanism comprising a crank member having a crank shaft and an eccentric shaft portion, a pivoting link having a first to third connecting portions located at vertices of a triangle and which are used for rotatable connections, the first connecting portion being connected to the eccentric shaft portion of said crank member, a connecting rod having opposite ends connected to the second connecting portion and an upper end of said ram, respectively, and a restraining link having a proximal end rotationally movably connected to a frame and a leading end connected to the third connecting portion of said pivoting link to regulate pivoting of said pivoting link, a pivoting center of said restraining link and the third connecting portion being arranged at respective sides of said crank shaft,

wherein said restraining link is arranged so that when the eccentric shaft portion of said crank member is located at a top dead center, part of said eccentric shaft portion is located above a straight line joining the pivoting center of said restraining link with the third connecting portion, and

wherein ~~according to Claim 10, characterized in that~~ said restraining link is shaped to have a bent portion that is bent upward or downward to avoid interference with said pivoting link.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A link press characterized by comprising a motor, a link mechanism that converts rotating operation transmitted by the motor via a drive transmitting system, into a linear operation, and a ram installed below said link mechanism to elevate and

lower for press working on the basis of said linear operation, said link mechanism comprising a crank member having a crank shaft and an eccentric shaft portion, a pivoting link having a first to third connecting portions located at vertices of a triangle and which are used for rotatable connections, the first connecting portion being connected to the eccentric shaft portion of said crank member, a connecting rod having opposite ends connected to the second connecting portion and an upper end of said ram, respectively, and a restraining link having a proximal end rotationally movably connected to a frame and a leading end connected to the third connecting portion of said pivoting link to regulate pivoting of said pivoting link, a pivoting center of said restraining link and the third connecting portion being arranged at respective sides of said crank shaft,

wherein ~~according to Claim 9, characterized in that~~ said restraining link is shaped to have a bent portion that is bent upward or downward to avoid interference with said pivoting link.

Claims 13-26 (canceled)